

## DISTRIBUTION POLICIES ON DUCHESNE AND STRAWBERRY RIVERS

1. During periods of early high flows, all water users have been free to divert water at will with no regulation on amounts diverted.
2. When flows of the Duchesne and Strawberry Rivers have dropped to a volume where regulation of water has been necessary, the commissioner has regulated diversion of water in accordance with rights as follows:
  - a. Indian water rights: A duty schedule based on a 3-acre-feet duty has been submitted prior to the irrigation season each year with a crop report of acreages to be irrigated under several Uintah Indian Irrigation Project canals.
  - b. Diligence rights: Lands served with these rights have no certificates specifying rates of flow or an acre-foot duty and have a priority of use prior to 1903. These lands have only been regulated to limit their diversion to a reasonable amount of flow for the acres of land irrigated.
  - c. Other certificated water rights being limited by their certificates to a duty of 3 acre-feet per acre have annually submitted crop reports on certificated acreage irrigated, some in written form and others verbally, and have by their consent accepted deliveries of water on the same 3-acre-feet duty schedule basis as submitted to the commissioner by the Uintah Indian Irrigation Project.
  - d. Certificated water rights whose certificates contain no limitation in acre-feet but only call for diversion of a given flow to a certificated acreage have been delivered the full certificated flows as long as there was water to satisfy the priority of their water right. When the water supply dropped and priority cuts were called for, these rights were cut on priority.
  - e. Pending applications have received water to acreage of lands being irrigated as determined by crop reports, mostly verbal statements, that were submitted annually, prior to the commencement of the irrigation season. These water rights by their consent also received rates of flow as contained in the 3-acre-feet duty schedule submitted by the Uintah Indian Irrigation Project.
3. When the flow of the rivers dropped to a point that the duty schedule or certificated flows could not be met, then water rights were cut off on a priority basis to supply earlier priority rights. The duty schedule was used until those certificated water rights limited to 3 acre-feet had been delivered their 3 acre-feet, and if necessary to satisfy the duty schedule, water rights were cut off on a priority basis. At such time that users had used 3 acre-feet, the flow in excess of that necessary to satisfy unlimited rights was prorated equally among the users. Those rights without limitation as to duty were allowed to divert their full flow entitlement as long as the priority of their right could be filled.

During the periods of flow exceeding the 3 acre-feet duty schedule, the maximum rate charged against a water user on his 3 acre-feet limitation was one second-foot per seventy acres.

4. Later in the irrigation season as demands for water on the system diminished, regulation was also relaxed, and users were allowed to regulate their diversions to satisfy their needs.

5. The basis and the measure of delivery of all waters on the Duchesne and Strawberry Rivers have been determined by the existing water rights of record at the State Engineer's Office.

6. All water diverted has been measured and recorded in the commissioner's reports.